

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1685
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL FOOD WASTE

1685. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that household-level food waste accounts for approximately 61% of global food waste and that India alone discards 78 million tonnes of food annually;
- (b) the details of the steps taken to educate consumers on smart food planning, storage and consumption practices to reduce domestic food waste;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce nationwide awareness campaigns or school-level curricula on responsible food consumption; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) to (d) : As per the Food Waste Index Report 2024 of the UN Environment Programme, the estimated food waste at the household level in India is 55 kg per capita per year, as compared to the global average of 79 kg per capita per year.

The Government has carried out publicity campaigns through print and electronic media from time to time to sensitize people against food wastage. In addition, States/UTs were advised by the Central Government to include a chapter on prevention of food wastage in the school syllabi in order to inculcate awareness among young students and sensitize them on the subject.

Further, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a social initiative known as “Save Food Share Food” to help promote donation of surplus food and reduce food waste by integrating various food distribution agencies and other stakeholders. FSSAI has also notified Food Safety and Standards (Recovery and Distribution of Surplus Food) Regulations, 2019 which specify the responsibilities of food donors and surplus food distribution organizations so that the donated food remains safe for human consumption. A website (www.sharefood.fssai.gov.in) was developed as a repository of information on this initiative. This website provides information related to the network on prevention of food waste, etc. FSSAI actively promotes this initiative at various platforms to sensitise citizens and food businesses including caterers about the donation and sharing of safe food.
